International Application No. PCT/EP2004/011131 Attorney Docket No. GIER3004/JEK **Preliminary Amendment**

REMARKS

Examination of the application as-amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON-& THOMAS, PLLC

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 19,179

Dated: April 4, 2006

Customer Number: 23364 BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor Alexandria, Virginia 22314 Telephone: (703) 683-0500

Facsimile: (703) 683-1080